

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-13 AEC-11

OIC-04 RSR-01 /157 W

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R 211135Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 913

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3478

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR WORKING GROUP MEETING, JULY 17

: USNATO 3354

SUMMARY: WORKING GROUP UNDERTOOK ITEMIZED REVIEW, AND AGREED TO SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF ITS FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AS SANCTIONED BY JULY 11 NAC. WG THEN CONSIDERED BRIEFLY COMPLETED PORTIONS OF SUB-GROUP'S SECOND REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS. IN VIEW OF LATTER'S RECENT DISSEMINATION, CHAIRMAN AGREED TO DEFER DISCUSSION UNTIL CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPITALS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT. NETHERLANDS' REP CIRCULATED NOTE ON PROPOSALS FOR ORGANIZING AND AMPLIFYING WORK ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS. NEXT, WG APPROVED ITS HUNGARY CONSTRAINTS PAPER WHICH WILL NOW BE FORWARDED TO THE COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION

ONLY. FINALLY, WG HEARD STATUS REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN OF SUB-GROUP ON TACAIR AND THEN AGREED TO JULY 31 FOR ITS NEXT MEETING. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOW-UP TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 11 JULY-CHAIRMAN (MINTER) OPENED MEETING WITH INTRODUCTORY REFERENCE TO GENERAL STEINHOFF'S LETTER TO SYG LUNS (TEXT, USNATO 3275) IN WHICH STEINHOFF UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF WG AND URGED THAT NAC EXPEDITIOUSLY SANCTION A MEANINGFUL WORK PROGRAM FOR IT. CHAIRMAN OBSERVED THAT NAC HAD NOW DONE THIS AT ITS JULY 11 MEETING, AND HAD THUS OPENED WAY FOR WG TO MOVE ON A BROAD SPECTRUM OF WHAT HE FELT WAS URGENT ACTIVITY. HE STRESSED THAT MAIN OUTPUT OF THIS EFFORT SHOULD BE COMPLETE, IF POSSIBLE, BY OCTOBER 30.

3. DRAWING ON SYG'S SUMMING UP OF COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WG ACTIVITIES, CHAIRMAN ENUMERATED POINTS LISTED IN PARA 8 OF USNATO 3311. HE FELT THAT POINTS WERE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR THAT THEY REQUIRED LITTLE FURTHER AMPLIFYING INTERPRETATION, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ITEM ON "TECHNICAL PROBLEMS LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED IN VARIOUS REDUCTION OPTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED." HERE HE FELT THAT INTENT OF COUNCIL WAS TO AFFIRM THAT IT WOULD-AT ITS CHOOSING-REQUEST WG ADVICE ON TECHNICAL PROS AND CONS OF WHATEVER REDUCTION OPTIONS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE THREE U.S. OPTIONS ON WHICH IT HAD TAKEN NO ACTION AS YET. PROBLEM WAS THAT SACEUR'S MILITARY ANALYSIS OF U.S. OPTIONS PAPER WOULD BE SUBMITTED BOTH TO MILITARY COMMITTEE (WHICH HAD COMMISSIONED ANALYSIS) AND TO WG IN VER NEAR FUTURE, AND THAT LATTER, PER NAC MANDATE, SHOULD BEGIN TO CONSIDER PAPER AS SOON AS RECEIVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD BEEEXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE OTHER OPTIONS PROPOSED BY DELEGATIONS IN DUE COURSE. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) CONFIRMED LATTER POINT, SAYING THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD BE PUTTING ONE FORWARD AT NEXT NAC MEETING (TEXT REPORT USNATO 3343), WHICH HE HOPED WOULD THEN BE REMANDED TO WG FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION. U.S. REP OBSERVED THAT WG WAS MANDATED TO EXAMINE SACEUR'S MILITARY ANALYSIS OF THE U.S. OPTIONS PAPER BUT NOT TO UNDERTAKE AN ANALYSIS OF THE OPTIONS THEMSELVES, SINCE THE NAC HAD NOT YET DIRECTED IT TO DO SO. DISCUSSION

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ENDED SOMEWHAT INCONCLUSIVELY WITH GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT ANY WG EFFORTS TOWARD EVALUATING SPECIFIC OPTIONS MUST AWAIT A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE TO DO SO. CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED WITH HOPE THAT WHEN U.S. TABLED ITS FORTHCOMING PAPER ON AN ALLIED NEGOTTIATING POSITION FOR MBFR IN THE NAC, SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD TRIGGER ACTION TO ENGAGE WG IN A TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF OPTIONS.

3. COMMENT: THERE CTONINTUES TO BE CLEAR AND PERSISTENT EFFORT ON PART OF WORKING LEVEL MEMBERS OF STAFF GROUP TO FIND WAYS OF ENGAGING WG IN THE VALUATION OF OPTIONS. GENERAL VIEW, AS REFLECTED IN RECENT TELECON BETWEEN/GROUP CAPTAIN SMITH AND U.S. WORKING GROUP REP IS THAT COUNCIL'S TASK OF EVALUATING OPTIONS WOULD BE GREATLY FACILITIATED IF IT HAD AVAILABLE A CLEAR VIEW OF THEIR LONGER RANGE,

AS WELL AS LESS IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS MILITARY AND TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS, THESE PRESUMABLY TO BE PROVIDED BY WG. U.S. REP REBUTTED ARGUMENTS BY DRAWING ON EXISTING POLICY REPRIMACY OF NAC. WE FORESEE NO GREAT PROBLEMS IN MAINTAINING THIS SITUATION IN WORKING GROUP (MOST REPS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE U.S. POSITION) ALTHOUGH WE MAY REQUIRE SOME FORCEFUL INTERVENTION WHEN WG REVIEWS SACEUR'S ASSESSMENT OF U.S. PAPER. END COMMENT

4. SECOND REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS (AC/276-WP(73)16-CHAIRMAN APOLOGIZED FOR LATE DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENT, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION COULD NOT BE EXPECTED AT THIS TIME, AND THEREFORE ASKED THAT WG REPS SUBMIT COMMENTS TO SG WHENEVER AVAILABLE. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) ASKED WHETHER ACTION ON PAPER WAS TO AWAIT COMPLETION OF MISSING CHAPTERS V AND VI. CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT HE PREFERRED TO MOVE MATERIAL RECEIVED FROM SUBGROUPS AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME REMAINING, AND THEREFORE BELIEVED PRESENT PAPER SHOULD BE REVIEWED AS IS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENTS IN TIME FOR NEXT WG MEETING.

5. DUTCH REP (QVANJER) THEN SUBMITTED NOTE ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS (TO BE POUCH) WHICH ARGUES FOR SYSTEMATIC LAYOUT OF SGM WORK TO DATE AS WELL AS AN IDENTIFICATION OF FURTHER AREAS TO BE STUDIED AS FOLLOW ON TO AC/276-WP(72)27 OF 29JUNE 1972. DUTCH REP STRESSED THAT NOTE WAS NOT DIRECTLY LINKED TO ACTUAL SUBGROUP WORK BUT SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN INDEPENDENT BUT ALSO QUITE PRELIMINARY CONTRIBUTION WHICH DUTCH THEMSELVES MIGHT WISH TO REFINE IN DUE COURSE. GENERAL AIM OF DUTCH THINKING, HE WENT ON, IS TO COLLATE AND AMPLIFY WHERE NECESSARY WORK ON WHAT IS CLEARLY A LARGE, COMPLEX AND HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANT SUBJECT. RESULT SHOULD BE A COMPENDIUM THAT IS SUBSTANTIVELY COMPLETE AND ORGANIZATIONALLY SO ARRANGED AS TO PERMIT OF EASY REFERENCE BY ALLIED ON-SITE NEGOTIATORS. HE ASKED FOR EARLY COMMENTS, BUT ALSO WONDERED WHETHER FURTHER SUBGROUPS ON CONSTRAINTS SHOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED IN VIEW OF BREADTH OF SUBJECT AND URGENCY OF TIME. REACTION OF CHAIRMAN (SUPPORTED BY STRONG INTERVENTION BY U.S. REP) WAS THAT NO FURTHER ORGANIZATIONAL FRAGMENTATION OF WG STRUCTURE SHOULD TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO A SPECIFIC NEED BEING DEMONSTRATED. WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON DUTCH NOTE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

6. IMPLICATIONS OF APPLYING CONSTRAINTS TO WARSAW PACT FORCES IN HUNGARY (AC/276-WP(73)13(2ND REVISE)-PAPER WAS APPROVED WITH CHANGE NOTED IN USNATO 3195 AND IS TO BE FORWARDED TO THE COUNCIL FOR ITS INFORMATION.

7. ORAL PROGRESS REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF SGTA-SGTA CHAIRMAN (DAWSON) PRESENTED DETAILED REVIEW OF SUBGROUP WORK (SPEAKING NOTE CIRCULATED BY AC/276-WP(73)17) AND PROPOSED THAT INTERIM ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE TACAIR DATA NOW BE DISCONTINUED. HE FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT THE REPORT COVERING THIS ANALYSIS NOT BE FORMALLY PUBLISHED UNDER WG AUSPICES. HE THEN NOTED THAT SUBGROUPS'S 1-3 AUGUST MEETING

WOULD REVIEW FIRST RESULTS OF AN ANALYSIS BASED ON ASSUMPTIONS AGREED DURING JUNE SGTA MEETING. TASK HERE WOULD BE TO ASSESS CHANGES AND EFFECTS TO REDUCTION OPTIONS IN RELATION TO A PRE-REDUCTION PHASE, WITH RESULTS BEING A BASE-CASE INDICATION OF BOTH SIDES' CAPABILITIES DURING THIS PHASE. AN INITIAL OUTLINE REPORT WOULD THEN BE PREPARED, FOLLOWING A LATE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE SUBGROUP, COVERING THE MAIN DIRECTION OF RESULTS, PROVIDING AN INITIAL SKETCH OF VARIOUS REDUCTION MIXES, AND GIVING A FIRST INDICATION OF NECESSARY SUBJECTIVE MILITARY JUDGMENTS. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED AT THE END OF 1973 BY A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT IN WHICH THE SUBJECTIVE QUALIFICATIONS WOULD BE WORKED OUT IN DETAIL, AND WHERE A MORE THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF TOLERABLE REDUCTION OPTIONS FOR TACAIR COULD BE ADVANCED. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WG CHAIRMAN QUESTIONED PROPOSED TIMING IN VIEW OF OCTOBER 30 DEADLINE, ASSUMING THAT SOVIETS MIGHT WELL RAISE TACAIR ISSUE EARLY IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE THEREFORE URGED THAT MAIN TRENDS OF ANALYSIS BE AVAILABLE TO NEGOTIATORS BEFORE THEY ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE PROBLEM BELGIAN REP CONCURRED SAYING "INTRINSICA ASSESSMENT" IS WHAT WAS NEEDED, NOT AN AGREED FINAL REPORT. DAWSON AGREED, SAYING THAT THIS IS WHY HE FAVORED CONFIDENTIAL

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AN INITIAL REPORT.

8. SUMMING UP, CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED WG IS NOW BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS TO BE FACED; NOTED HE WOULD STAY ABREAST OF ALL SUBGROUP ACTIVITIES; URGED THAT WG PROGRAM BE REGULARLY UPDATED AND REGARDED INCREASINGLY IN TERMS OF DEADLINES TO BE MET. LATTER TWO ITEMS HE HOPED WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN MORE DETAIL THROUGH SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL COMMENTS, WHICH HE WELCOMED. NEXT WG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 31. RUMSFELD

#3478

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO003478
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730767/abqcebfh.tel
Line Count: 199
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR WORKING GROUP MEETING, JULY 17
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ANKARA
ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
LONDON

OSLO
OTTAWA
ROME
THE HAGUE
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
BT

C O N F I D E N I A L USNATO

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005